

Message Text

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TO AMEMBASSY NASSAU

UNCLAS STATE 266556

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: OCLR, TGEN, TPHY, BF

SUBJECT: R/V EASTWARD, BAHAMAS RESEARCH CLEARANCE

1. THE PRIVATE VESSEL, R/V EASTWARD, OPERATED BY DUKE UNIVERSITY AND FUNDED BY NATIONAL SCIENCE FOUNDATION, IS PLANNING TO CONDUCT RESEARCH IN THE NORTHWEST PROVIDENCE CHANNEL DURING THE PERIOD 19 MARCH - 6 APRIL 1976.

2. THE PURPOSE OF THE RESEARCH IS TO STUDY THE CARBONATE CHEMISTRY OF THE WATER FLOWING THROUGH THE NW PROVIDENCE CHANNEL. THE FINDINGS WILL BE RELATED TO THE CIRCULATION AND TO THE DISTRIBUTION AND NATURE OF UNCONSOLIDATED SEDIMENT, SEDIMENT CEMENTED IN-SITU, AND OLDER OUT-CROPPING ROCK. ALSO, A DEPOSIT OF UNCONSOLIDATED SEDIMENT ON THE WESTERN SIDE OF THE NORTHERN STRAITS THAT HAS BEEN DESCRIBED AS A DEPOSITIONAL ANTICLINE WILL BE STUDIED. THESE STUDIES WILL HELP EXPLAIN THE PROCESSES BY WHICH CARBONATE PLATFORM MARGINS ARE FORMED. THE CHIEF SCIENTIST IS A. CONRAD NEUMANN OF THE U. OF NORTH CAROLINA. ALL DATA RESULTS WILL BE SHARED WITH THE BAHAMAS. A SHIP'S TRACK WILL BE FORWARDED VIA AIRGRAM.

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3. EQUIPMENT WHICH WILL BE USED TO CONDUCT THE RESEARCH WILL INCLUDE A SEISMIC REFLECTION PROFILER, A PISTON CORER, ROCK DREDGES, A SHIPEK GRAB, BOTTOM CAMERAS, AND

A CSTD. EXPLOSIVES WILL NOT REPEAT NOT BE USED.

4. R/V EASTWARD IS 284 GROSS TONS, 117.6 FEET LONG, AND HAS A DRAFT OF 12.5 FEET. SHIP'S MASTER IS R. SANDOY WITH A CREW OF 14 AND SCIENTIFIC PARTY OF 15. SHIP'S CALL SIGN IS WY-9219 AND THE SHIP MAINTAINS DAILY CONTACT WITH DUKE UNIVERSITY MARINE LAB.

5. A PORT CALL IS PLANNED AT NASSAU FROM 15 MARCH - 19 MARCH, WHICH WILL BE ARRANGED BY THE SHIP'S AGENT. DURING THIS TIME DUKE U. WILL EMBARK ANY BAHAMIAN SELECTED OBSERVERS OR SCIENTISTS (UP TO 3) THAT ARE INTERESTED IN PARTICIPATING ON THE CRUISE.

6. ACTION: REQUEST EMBASSY REQUEST CLEARANCE FOR R/V EASTWARD TO CONDUCT RESEARCH IN BAHAMIAN TERRITORIAL WATERS AND ON THEIR CONTINENTAL SHELF DURING PERIOD 19 MARCH - 6 APRIL 1976. PLEASE EXTEND INVITATION FOR BAHAMIAN PARTICIPATION. KISSINGER

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